

03500.017575



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Hoang X. Ngo
SEIJI SAITO, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2852
Application No.: 10/667,351)	
	:	
Filed: September 23, 2003)	Allowed: November 17, 2004
	:	
For: IMAGE FORMING)	
APPARATUS	:	February 8, 2005

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of a Notice of Allowance dated November 17, 2004, in the above-referenced application. The Issue Fee is due on or before February 17, 2005, and is being paid concurrently herewith.

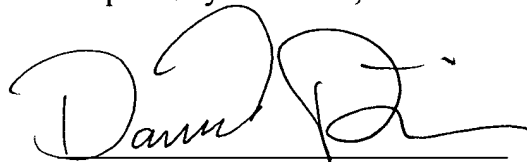
Claim 1 is directed to an image forming apparatus, and recites, an image bearing member, an intermediate transferring member for receiving a transfer of a toner image from said image bearing member, and a cleaning means which cleans the toner image on said intermediate transferring member, said apparatus having a first mode for transferring a toner image on said intermediate transferring member onto a transfer material, and a second mode for forming a toner

image in an entire area capable of image formation on said intermediate transferring member and cleaning said toner image without transfer to the transfer material.

Applicants wish to point out that while the “second mode” is a feature of the image forming apparatus of Claim 1, it is not necessarily part of, or carried out by, the “cleaning means.” To the extent that the Examiner’s Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth in the November 17, 2004 Notice of Allowability is inconsistent with, or more narrow than, the scope of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization.

Applicants’ undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David A. Divine", written over a horizontal line.

David A. Divine
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